

Christmas - the perfect season go job-hunting.

Just another in a series of articles for Interchristo by Career Coach, author, and born again Christian, Robert Meier.

Please repeat after me, *“all I want for Christmas is a brand new job.”* But wait, you might be thinking that the holiday season is a terrible time to go job hunting, right? Wrong. Think about it. Most companies work on a traditional fiscal year, January to December. We are now at the financial year-end, what the business world calls the fourth quarter. Although many companies may not be hiring staff or adding headcount between Thanksgiving and New Years, quite a few do their recruiting and interviewing in preparation of the New Year when funds for staff allocations are then freed up. A wise career strategist will realize this and try to line his/her ducks up during this magic 60-day window of time.

The thought of ignoring the holiday season as a viable job-search period is well entrenched in the American worker's psyche, and that's too bad. As a career coach since 1991, I have always seen a considerable drop off of customers coming into my office after the first week of November and the slow down usually continues until January second. It's almost as if people feel that it is impolite to seek employment during this festive time. Maybe job-seekers feel guilty that they are thinking about careers rather than family and faith. But consider a small passage in the book of Proverbs as your call-to-action motivator.

Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest- and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man. ***Proverbs 6:6-11***

Obviously none of us want to be sluggish so think of your career path like a road and a job search is a marathon carved out of that road, the person who wins the race is the one who pushes hardest the finish line while others find reasons to coast.

Let me share a great example of a young client who I came across at the beginning of December 2002. For the sake of confidentiality, I will change her name to Cindy. Cindy was a very interesting lady who had just finished a two year, overseas mission trip in Turkey with Campus Crusade for Christ. Cindy wanted to go in a completely new career direction, account executive sales, specifically in pharmaceutical sales, but she possessed none of the typical prerequisites to justify the career switch.

The one thing that Cindy had was a long suit in determination and courage that comes from a Christ centered life. She was undaunted when recruiters and colleagues told her that job seeking during the holiday season was a waste of time. After I wrote her resume and cover letter, she began to methodically send it out to every hot or cold prospect she found, no opportunity was too big or too little. She remembers sending countless "blind" resumes and just praying that God would get them to the right people for review. The next time I heard from her, it was on the Monday after New Year's Day, which in 2003 fell on a Wednesday. So it was literally only 3 business days after the holiday. She called to tell me that she had received three job offers, one selling Dale Carnegie motivational seminars, one as an account representative in the institutional sales group for Aramark and one with a pharmaceutical company as a sales representative based in the Chicago market. Because Cindy was determined to pursue God's will for her career, regardless of the special season, God rewarded her with multiple opportunities, which for Cindy was a reaffirmation of what she already believed. God does not have a favorite season, he is alive and rewards those who diligently seek him. So go ahead and execute your job-search during the period that your job-seeking competitors ignore.

Robert Meier is an active career coach, if you have questions email him at coach@godsjob.org or call 813-907-5673.